

TERMS.

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"INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE" between the Hon. Thomas H. Benton, of Virginia, representing the State of Missouri in the Senate of the United States, and a Committee of the Democracy of the "patriotic county (clique) of Howard."

FAYETTE, Aug. 7, 1843.

DEAR SIR—At a meeting held by a portion of the Democrats of Howard on the present inst., the undersigned were deputed to express to you their high sense of the many services you have rendered to our common country in the councils of the nation, and in their name, and in behalf of the Democracy of Howard, to invite you to Fayette, and to welcome you to the bosoms of your friends.

We should feel that we had illy performed the agreeable duty assigned us, if we were to permit the present opportunity to pass without apprising you of our hearty approbation of the eminent position you assumed against the measures and policy of the Federal party in Congress both since and during the memorable extra session.

True to the principles of the Democracy and the cause of the people, you have ever been found upon the watch-tower, a faithful and vigilant sentinel, ably scanning and fearlessly exposing the plans and schemes of the then dominant party, to lay the foundation of a policy, the consummation of which would have entailed upon us an American Aristocracy. Never before the accession of the present party to power, were there as many palpable and reckless violations of both the letter and spirit of the constitution. By these means they aimed a deadly blow at the liberties of our country.—This they contemplated by a protective tariff, the natural workings of which serves but to drain the pockets of the many, to administer to the pampered wealth of the "noble and high born" few; by an United States Bank, whose known course and policy has been to accommodate its favorites, and defraud the great mass of the people—by an odious gag law, to prevent the promulgation of their dark and nefarious plans, until they were permanently saddled upon the American people—by a distribution of the National Domain, thus breaking through the entrenchments of the Constitution, and, by an appeal to the basest passions, making sovereign and independent States pensioners on the bounty of the Federal Government—and by a mad attempt to abolish the veto power, delegated by the Constitution to the Executive of the Union for wise and patriotic purposes—thus converting the President of the United States into a mere automaton, and an American Congress, with "will unchecked" into the most absolute of despotisms.

Thus have they proved themselves the disorganizers of our Republic, and, against the adoption of these measures, one and all, we are proud that you were arrayed on the side of liberty, pre-eminently advocating the Constitution and the rights of the people.

Nor is this all: the noble and patriotic stand you took against the ratification of the late British Treaty—a treaty which failed to redress the flagrant wrongs and outrages committed upon the lives and property of our citizens in the memorable instances of the Caroline and Creole—a treaty which abandons our merchant vessels to the degrading right of "search" and "visitation" by the authorities of an arrogant and haughty Government, and which surrenders up to that Government a valuable portion of our territory, our title to which was as clear as it is to the soil of Missouri: we say, sir, your able efforts to defeat the ratification of that treaty, merit, and call for our liveliest approbation and highest admiration.

But, sir, among the long and many important services rendered to your country, if there be any one subject upon which your action has given us more satisfaction than another, it has been your devotion to the establishment of the INDEPENDENT TREASURY—to the entire divorce of Bank and State, and your "uncompromising hostility" to a National Bank, and the whole American banking system which requires no responsibility of either stockholders or directors—a system which has enriched the few and beggared the many—which has bankrupted many of our States, paralyzed the energies of our citizens, and reduced the widow and the orphan to penury and want—which has banished our gold and silver and given us rags in its place—which has encouraged crime and gone far in the work of seducing our people into the habits of idleness and extravagance, and which, if not checked, must sooner or later end in fastening upon the necks of our citizens the

BOON'S LICK TIMES.

"ERROR CEASES TO BE DANGEROUS, WHEN REASON IS LEFT FREE TO COMBAT IT."—JEFFERSON.

Vol. 4.

FAYETTE, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1843.

No. 27.

York of despotism and tyranny. To verify the truth of what we say, we have only to cast our eyes over those States and Governments which have drunk most deeply at the fountain of this pernicious paper system: and, the only difference to be discovered in the condition of the sufferers, exists in the extremes to which the system has been pushed. Witness the clamor and desperation of the Federal whig shin plaster party a few years since, in petitioning and almost commanding Congress to authorize the reception of their worthless trash in the payment of postage, after they had banished their gold and silver by the introduction of paper issues of denominations as low as our smallest pieces of silver coin.

We have heretofore expressed our cordial approbation of your exertions in connection with the patriot Jackson and the Democratic party of the Union, to place the currency of our country upon a solid basis, and a more elevated ground; and we embrace the opportunity now afforded us of repeating and reiterating our former expressed opinions. That noble stroke of policy in the administration of President Jackson which refused the reception of any bank note of a less denomination than \$20; thereby encouraging the circulation of the precious metals, calls, we think, for a renewal of our approval, for at this time, and ever since the memorable issue of one pound notes by the Bank of England, no principle in Euclid has been more clearly established or by the Democratic party more universally admitted, than, where \$1 notes are permitted to circulate, in like proportion the silver dollar disappears; that the circulation of \$5 notes will banish the half-eagle, and that, the \$10 note is alike the deadly enemy to the eagle and doubloon.—It was upon this ground that President Jackson and the Democratic party in Congress acted in rejecting small notes in the payment of Government dues, and it was upon this ground—this sound and wholesome principle, that the Democracy of the country throughout the land hailed the act with one accord, and gave their cheerful and steady support to the measures. Shall we now abandon our position? Now that the great paper bubble has exploded; now that the fog and the mist of the storm has vanished; now that the "sober second thought" is about taking place; now that our people are returning to their wonted habits of industry and economy, (the only sure means of wealth and prosperity); now that the exchanges of the country are ever effected on the most favorable terms ever experienced by our mercantile community, and this too, without the aid of a great "regulator" and its "odor of nationality;" and now when it is notorious that in every city upon our sea board, money—real money, gold and silver is abundant, and seeking investment at the low rates of three and four per cent. interest, per annum—again we ask, shall we abandon our position?

Shall we abandon a principle which experience has proved to be sound and wholesome, and return again to the defunct and rotten system which has already well nigh ruined us? Notwithstanding the repeated decisions which the people have made against a National Bank, with all its appendages and paraphernalia, it is easy to perceive that in the great contest of 1844, we must again encounter our ancient enemy: again on an open field will we unveil the old "harlot," and the visor fallen from her gorgon brow, she will disclose the deformities of the ruler of Pandemonium.

Very respectfully, your friends,
C. F. Jackson, J. J. Lowry,
Leland Wright, Thos. L. Belt,
John Jackson, N. J. Elliott,
A. F. Walden, Jno. D. Leland,
Laban Seabee, Jno. A. Powell,
Geo. Cason, Jas. H. Saunders,
J. C. Ross, B. F. Jeter,
S. Bynum, T. J. Owens,
W. M. Jackson, Wm. Botts,
Wm. Buster, Thos. Jackson,
N. Ford, Jas. Jackson,
Wm. C. Boon, Lewis Criglar,
A. W. Morrison, Robert Lynch,
Hon. Thos. H. Benton.

GLASGOW, Mo., Aug. 23d, 1843.

GENTLEMEN:—Your kind letter of invitation to visit the old and patriotic county of Howard, and to accept a public dinner from my political friends, has met me at this place, and is the more agreeable to me as coming from old and valued friends and long approved and steadfast friends of democracy. The dinner is declined in conformity to my long established rule; but the visit to the county I intended to make without invitation, and to remain in it long enough to have an opportunity of seeing at their own convenience and without the formality of a public meeting such of my fellow-citizens as should do me the honor to exchange salutations with me.

I have to make you many thanks for the indulgent view which you have taken of my public conduct; and, while my own estimate of my public labors is much below yours, I can at least say that my course has been disinterested and straight forward: in twenty-three years service I have had no change to account for, or inconsistencies to reconcile; I have provided no office or contract for any of my relations, and have refused every thing that has been offered myself.

You are pleased to refer with much approbation to my conduct in relation to the British treaty; and here it is excusable to accept applause, for time has already confirmed all my objections to that instrument. The new boundary line turns out to be the military frontier agreed upon by a council of British Generals for the protection of

Quebec! The fugitive criminal article is for the protection of slaves who murder their owners, and carry their horses or boats to Canada or Nassau! The African squadron article admits the right of search and visitation! The red-line map is laughed at! The Dr. Franklin letter is repudiated! The old mountain boundary (sacrificed by this treaty) is admitted to have been the true line! The war threat is admitted to have been an experiment on the nervous system of our leaders and the commercial pulse of our cities! And all that the British now ask is that they may have the same American negotiation to regulate commerce with them by treaty, and to settle all other differences between the two countries!

I did indeed fight that British treaty, and not only for what it contained, but for something else also: we fought the Oregon question in that fight! Myself and colleague were sounded upon it. We answered like Americans and saved the country. My worthy colleague was especially sounded; his answer killed their hopes; and afterwards, the exposure which was made of the sacrifice of the north-eastern and north-western boundaries showed the danger of adventuring upon a new sacrifice; and thus the surrender of the north bank of the river, and half the country, to the British, was postponed to a future day. Happily the result of the elections has restored the democracy to power, and adjourned that postponement sine die. And here let me say that, five and twenty years ago, in a series of essays on that subject, I presented this Oregon question to the people under the aspect which it now wears: our title to it—the British designs upon it—the necessity for the immediate possession by our country—and the folly of the treaty of 1818, which admitted the British to its joint occupation. On all these points the public is now at the point that I was at 25 years ago; but there was another point I was then at which the public mind has not yet reached, namely, the introduction of the East India trade to the valley of the Mississippi through the mouth of the Columbia! The invention of rail roads, and the discovery of the South Pass since that time has crowned the feasibility of this idea.

A notice in detail of all the topics which your letter contains would require too much space for this brief answer; but there are two of them which, from their daily bearing on the daily business of the people, and the trouble they still give us, demand from me a word in support of what you say: I speak of a National Bank, and the Paper Currency. One might suppose that after the Great Bank had been repudiated by its greatest champion as an "obsolete idea"—after its explosion had shown it to be a "rotten and stinking carcass filled with dead men's bones and with corruption"—after the equalization of exchanges shows it was not necessary to their regulation—after the introduction of more than one hundred millions of gold and silver shows that it was not wanted as a manufactory of paper currency—after the reduction of interest to four or five per cent. per annum in the cities where people paid one and a half per cent. per month while the Great Bank and her branches stood among them; after all this, and so many condemnations of the institution at the elections, it might have been expected that the question was at rest, and the country relieved from its agitation. But not so the fact. The ghost of the monster still stalks upon the land. The old Federalists of the Hamiltonian school, now, as forty years ago, still follow it as the leading star of their policy; and many good citizens (in other respects good democrats) who were misled into a supposed necessity for it in the times of suspended banks, depreciated paper money, deranged exchanges, and no gold or silver, have not yet recovered from the delusive idea then taken up. Hence the question of a National Bank must still be a subject of political contest. The strongest efforts of the federalists will be made for its chief advocate: their united exertions will be directed against him who, in the most formidable day of bank and power, (Mr. Van Buren) had the courage and patriotism to declare the sentiment which your letter has quoted: "Uncompromising hostility to a National Bank." Great is the debt of gratitude which the country owes to Gen. Jackson for his opposition to this bank. Vast are the evils he would have inflicted upon us if her disastrous career had not been stopped. To say nothing of political evils in the shape of corruption carried into the sources and fountains of liberty—into the press, the elections and the legislative halls: to say nothing of having a power in the country stronger than the Government, and which governed the Government, and put up and put down the price of all property, produce and labor as it pleased, and which itself was subordinate to the policy of the Bank of England—to say nothing of such evils from which he has saved us, he has also saved the People and the Treasury of the United States from the loss of the one hundred millions of dollars which has fallen upon its stockholders and note-holders, upon the local banks which it has swallowed up, the States it has swallowed, and the foreign capitalists it has cheated. The hundred millions of loss which has fallen upon all these parties, would have fallen upon the People and the Treasury of the U. S. had it not been for the most glorious and ever memorable order for the removal of the deposits!

Mr. Van Buren, the friend and successor of Gen. Jackson, has paid the price of his "uncompromising hostility" to this institution; for it was the chief agent of his over-

throw in the election of 1840. It was that Bank which made the suspension, and created the distress, and furnished the principal part of the means for the carousals and frauds which disgraced that election; and now he is the selected object against which all the old adherents of the Bank direct the concentrated energies of all their power.

The reform of the currency has been felt to be a sacred duty by the democratic party, and much has been done by the Jackson and Van Buren administrations to accomplish it. The old standard has been corrected, and that metal restored to circulation: the laws against the circulation of various foreign silver coins have been repealed, and the importation of silver has vastly increased: the mint has been branched, and now gives the South and West the benefit of its coinage; the National Bank has been put down which collected from the States, and shipped to England, forty two millions of hard dollars in twenty years; the Independent Treasury was established, which made the divorce between Bank and State, and brought gold and silver to the United States from all foreign countries and distributed it through the whole Union by making it the sole currency of the Federal Treasury and the sole money of receipt and payment in all payments to and from the Federal Government. Liability of stockholders, the suppression of small notes, and a bankrupt law against bankrupt banks, were further reforms in the currency which the democracy contemplated; but here the aid of the State Governments were wanting. State legislation was necessary to several of these reforms, and I am to-day, my most heartfelt thanks to the present Government of the State, and the members of the General Assembly who co-operated with him, for their wise and patriotic exertions to check the importation of the base paper by which the farmers, and the laboring classes of the State, have been plundered of millions. I question whether the loss to these classes on the importation of rotten bank paper, (from the Coon box establishment in Cairo, up to the Great Red Harlot in Philadelphia) has not been more than equal to all their receipts from the exportation of their crops; and their industry thus nullified, and their labor brought to naught, for want of adequate laws to protect them from the depredation of imported rotten paper. To Messrs. Jackson, of Howard, and Huston, of Lincoln, my thanks are particularly due for their respective bills and meritorious exertions on this subject.

Wishing you, gentlemen, all happiness and prosperity, and hoping for the good cause of democracy a safe deliverance from all the dangers which now besiege it in our State, I remain your obliged fellow citizen.

THOMAS H. BENTON.

Messrs. C. F. Jackson, J. J. Lowry, and others.

From the New Mirror.

THE DYING BOY.

Ay, mother, weep this hour that boy will die—
Your lov'd, your beautiful, and only one!
The wing of death is o'er him—every sigh
Comes struggling fainter from his lip of stone;
A closing weight rests on his azure eye,
Like evening's falling touch on some blue flower;
Gaze there—while yet to think it may reprieve;
And thus may'st thou thrill beneath its lov'd reprieve!

Thou wilt not deem it so! though day by day
Thou'st seen, with all that woman-tenderness,
The smile upon his face more faintly play;
His look betray more pleading languidness;
And seen decay, with deprecating stealth—
His vermilion cheek despoiling of its bloom—
His floating ringlets of their lustrous wealth—
And clinging there the shadow of the tomb!

Ah! 'tis no fantasy! the stricken thing
That like a dying bird lies quivering there,
Was late his bright-eyed boy, whose spirit's wing
So much of radiance own'd and freedom rare—
Ayt part of thy young self! Delight so grew,
That joy became a trembler in thy breast;
And his strange loveliness so rich a hue
Lent round, earth seem'd in Eden-novels
Dress'd!

O, the deep sense of rarest ecstasy
'Twere vain to tell, that in thy heart had birth,
When he—a ray creature—graceful, free,
Play'd at thy side and revell'd in his mirth;
Or, when mid starry silence thou didst wake,
To watch while pillow'd on thine arm he lay,
And the lone vigil kept for his dear sake,
And heard his low and dove-like breathings play!

Wot for thee, mother, wot the wifering bliss
Such moments gave thee, thine can no more;
Like a bright dream 'twill fade—yet O, thou'lt miss
It's spell so ravishing thy bosom's core!
Years may roll on and thou may'st linger here,
When every rose-leaf of the heart is shed,
Yet with thou mourn, with many a burning tear,
The early lost—the beautiful—the dear!

Yet cheer thee in this hour! His dwelling-place
Will be in bowers where Sabbath stillness reigns;
Where, on the flower, dark change ne'er leaves a trace,
Nor on the joy rude passion serpent-stains;
He is too finely wrought to languish where
The rainbow arches but to melt away;
And every lovely sound and vision fair
Swells but the dirge—the trophies of decay!

NEWSPAPER STATISTICS.—It appears from the last return made to the British Parliament, that there are at present 138 newspapers circulated in London; the yearly circulation which amounts to 36,271,020 papers, and the advertisement duty amounts to 48,160 l. 10s.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.
LETTER FROM MR. CLAY.

In the Chambersburg Whig of the 24th ult., we find a letter eloquent and strong, from the "Chambersburg Clay Club" to the Hon. HENRY CLAY, with his letter in reply. The Committee introduce with the following passage a graphic sketch of the progress of misrule in the country for a long period past:

"Why is it, Sir, that with a Constitution of Government so admirably adapted to human welfare—with resources so multiplied and exuberant—enterprise so vigorous—means of intercourse so rapid and commodious, and literature so cheap and abundant, we are not now, as formerly, a prosperous and happy nation, proud of our retrospect, and exulting in the promise of the future? Why is it that all the great branches of our national industry are in a state of prostration or ruin? Our soil and climate have undergone no change for the worse; our machinery for abridging labor and perfecting its product has not deteriorated; our active population has lost nothing in point of energy and skill. Whence is it then that our prosperity has been thrown into obedience; that the capitalist finds no outlet for his means, and the laborer remains without employment?"

The length of the Committee's letter forbids its insertion entire. It is written with great force and spirit. Mr. CLAY replies as follows:

MR. CLAY'S REPLY.

ASHLAND July 25th, 1843.

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication which in behalf of the Clay Club of Chambersburg, you address to me, informing me of the organization of that association, and its determination to co-operate with similar institutions, and our Whig fellow-citizens generally in disseminating and establishing sound principles of Government in the United States. You are also pleased, gentlemen, at the instance of the Club, to request my acquiescence in the various nominations which have been made for the office of Chief Magistrate of the United States. I hope the success of the exertions of the Club, in the propagation and establishment of "correct principles," may be commensurate with its laudable and patriotic aims. And I tender it by cordial thanks and grateful acknowledgments for the friendly sentiments and wishes which it entertains towards myself. I am infinitely obliged to my fellow-citizens for the numerous testimonies of their confidence and attachment, in manifesting their desire that I should fill the highest office in their gift, and whatever may be the final result, my heart will ever be animated by feelings of the liveliest gratitude. The time has not yet arrived, I think, when I ought to decide whether I shall give my consent or not to the use of my name, as a candidate for the office of President of the United States.—When it does, I shall give to all the considerations which should influence my judgment full weight, and, among them, the friendly wishes of the Clay Club of Chambersburg.

I concur with you, gentlemen, generally, in the retrospect which you have presented of the administration of public affairs, during late years, and in the measures of policy which ought to guide it. If we are not utterly deceived in the theory of free Government, the people of the United States ought all along to have been and should now be, the happiest and most prosperous people upon earth, but our condition has been, and continues to be far otherwise. It is impossible to contemplate the administration of the Government, during nearly the last fifteen years, without feelings of the deepest regret and bitter mortification. That long period has been marked by relentless proscription, similar in spirit, if not attended with the same effusion of blood, as that which is recorded in Roman history to have been perpetrated by Marius and Sulla; by reckless experiments and the overthrow of valuable institutions by the destruction of the best currency in the world, and consequently derangement in all the business of society; by extensive and scandalous speculation on the part of the public functionaries; by extravagant and profligate expenditure of the public money; by attempts to subvert the long cherished policy of the country, under which it had eminently flourished and prospered; by relaxation in respect and authority due the law and Constitution; by wide spread and alarming demoralization, by a fearful growth and corrupt use of the power of the Executive branch of the Government; and, finally, by a degree of perfidy in the head of that branch, of which no equal example can be found in this or any other country, in this or any other age. At the commencement of the administration of the present acting Chief Magistrate, the leaders of our political opponents, with a few honorable exceptions, assiduously courted and caressed him; flattering and praising him for his violation of the just expectations of a confiding people. They marched up, in solemn column, arm in arm, along Pennsylvania Avenue to the Presidential Mansion to thank and congratulate him, for exercising a Royal prerogative, to defeat the hopes and wishes of the people. Men, under the abused name of Democrats, loudly exulted in the failure of a measure demanded by the urgent wants and voice, and essential to the interests of the people; exulted in the perverse and corrupt will of one man, overruling the will of a large majority of the nation! In the dispensations of an all-wise Providence, retributive justice is sure to come sooner or later. The acting President, so much wooed by political leaders, in the beginning of his administration, now, as its end ap-

proaches, in his turn, and very much to their annoyance, exercises all his blandishments upon their party. Nor is their danger or regret diminished, by the fact that, whilst their instruments of seduction were honeyed words, his are lucrative offices of Government.

The great political event of 1840 had an object far more elevated and important, than that of a mere change in the high functionaries of the Nation. It was to bring about a radical improvement in public policy. And what, after that event, was the mainly, liberal, and patriotic course which the defeated party should have pursued? It was to have cheerfully acquiesced in the will of the People, proclaimed by an unexampled and overwhelming majority. They should have said—"The people disapprove of our system. They require a sound currency of uniform value. They are opposed to the Sub Treasury. They demand a distribution of the proceeds of the sales of public lands, among all the States. They insist upon an honest and economical administration of their public affairs. They are opposed to the encroachments of the Executive department, and require salutary restraints upon its power. We shall continue, by free discussion and fair arguments, to recommend our measures, and to expose those of our political opponents; but they are entitled to a fair trial of their system of policy, and we will make no factious opposition, nor throw any unreasonable obstacles in their way.—Above all, we scorn to employ any arts to seduce from the path of his duty, the man, who has reached his elevated station, in spite of our strenuous exertions against him by the confidence which they generously reposed in his honor and fidelity."

How far the leaders of the other party have conformed to this upright and straight forward course, passed and daily passing events, sufficiently testify. They prove that the acting President, and the party, which has assumed the name Democratic, without the least color of title to it, are now completely identified, closely united, one and indivisible. If, in the sequel, they should find him an inconvenient associate, they have no body but themselves to reproach.

The last war with Great Britain taught the patriotic lesson that, during a conflict with a foreign power, it behooves our parties cordially possible effect and vigor; and any party, which violates that principle, is sure to lose the public confidence. Our experience, in season of peace, will, I trust, inculcate another important lesson that vacillancy and perfidy are alike detestable at all times, and in all circumstances, still more clearly, that invaluable but too often neglected truth, in public affairs, that honesty is the best policy.

It is painful even to gaze on the picture of the Administration of the General Government which I have faithfully sketched. It would have been happy for the people of the United States, if it were a mere fancy picture to survey. But their long, general and intense embarrassments have unfortunately too severely assured them of its actual reality. It would have been a much more agreeable task to me to portray the purity, disinterestedness, honor, probity and fidelity of all in the charge of our public concerns: the wisdom of their measures, and the consequent general prosperity of the country. But we now know the nature, extent and causes of the public disorders, and, what is no less important, their remedy. That remedy is in the hands of the People. Under other forms of Government, where public spirit is not entirely crushed by arbitrary power, the People would long since have sought redress by violent and convulsive means. It is our peculiar good fortune to have in the ballot box a remedy, which supercedes a necessity of resorting to them, and which is quite as efficacious, and more certain, as well as more peaceful, than the use of the bayonet. And it affords me inexpressible pleasure to say to you that it is my firm belief, from all the signs of the times, from all the causes now in operation, and from all the information which I derive from every quarter of the Union, that a great and glorious deliverance awaits us; and that the people will, in 1844, nobly vindicate their rights, and manifest anew their capacity for self-government, by a triumph more brilliant, more decisive, and, I hope, auspicious than that in 1840. That accomplished, most of the views of the public policy, which you suggest, will I trust be enforced, and we shall once more behold our country honored and respected abroad, beloved and prosperous at home, and steadily advancing in the path which leads to greatness and grandeur.

I am, with high respect,

Your friend and ob't servant,
HENRY CLAY.

The following story is told of a Yankee captain and his mate:

Whenever there was a plum pudding made, by the captain's orders, all the plums were put into one end of it, and that end put next to the captain, who, after helping himself, passed it to the mate, who never found any plums in his part of it. Well, after this game had been played for some time, the mate prevailed on the steward to place the end which had no plums in it next to the captain. The captain no sooner saw the pudding, than he discovered he had the wrong end of it. Picking up the dish and turning it in his hands as if merely examining the china, he said, "this dish cost me two shillings in Liverpool," and put it down again as though without design, with the plum end next to himself. "Is it possible," said the mate, taking up the dish, "I should not suppose it worth more than one shilling?" and, as in perfect innocence, he put the dish with the plum end next to himself. The captain looked at the mate, and the mate looked at the captain; the captain laughed. "I tell you what, young one," said the captain, "you've found me out; so I'll just cut the pudding lengthwise this time, and have the plums fairly distributed hereafter."